

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02763 071752Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----089619 071754Z /46
O 071730Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0546
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2763

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER;
ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN;
D/HA MR. SCHNEIDER

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC MR. PASTOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, OAS, PA
SUBJ: PARAGUAY-IAHRC VISIT AND IDB LOANS

REF: ASUNCION 2650

1. SINCE SENDING REFTEL, I HAVE HAD ALMOST DAILY MEET-
INGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES, FINANCE MINISTER
BARRIENTOS, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL BANK ROMEO ACOSTA,
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PAPPALARDO, AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS.
WHILE THEY UNANIMOUSLY AND STRONGLY AGREE THAT IT IS IN
PARAGUAY'S BEST INTEREST THAT PERMISSION SHOULD BE GIVEN
TO IAHRC TO COME TO PARAGUAY, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE
TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT STROESSNER TO GIVE HIS APPROVAL.
WHILE I DO NOT DOUBT THEIR EFFORTS OR SINCERITY, THIS
IS A DICTATORSHIP WHERE ONLY STROESSNER'S FINAL DECISION
COUNTS AND NONE OF HIS ADVISORS, WITH THE POSSIBLE
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EXCEPTION OF PAPPALARDO, IS EVER INCLINED TO ARGUE
WITH HIM.

2. IN DEEPEST SECRECY, STROESSNER SENT PAPPALARDO TO
MONTEVIDEO JULY 6 TO FIND OUT WHETHER GOU WOULD OBJECT
TO IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY. ACCORDING TO PAPPALARDO,
GOU DID SO IN THE STRONGEST TERMS. WHILE PAPPALARDO

WAS STILL AWAY, STROESSNER TOLD OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE,
WHO MADE HIS FAREWELL CALL ON HIM, THAT HE WOULD NOT
ACT WITHOUT URUGUAY'S APPROVAL BECAUSE URUGUAY HAD
4,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN JAIL AND AN IAHRC VISIT
TO PARAGUAY WOULD BRING STRONG PRESSURE ON GOU TO
FOLLOW SUIT.

3. AS I FORESEE THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME, EFFORT AND
CUNNING TO GET STROESSNER'S APPROVAL FOR THE VISIT,
I REITERATED TODAY IN STRONGEST TERMS PREVIOUS SUGGES-
TIONS MADE BY DEPARTMENT AND MYSELF THAT GOP MEANWHILE
WITHDRAW SOFT LOANS FOR IDB CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO
JULY 13. BOTH NOGUES AND BARRIENTOS PROMISED THAT THIS
WOULD BE DONE FORTHWITH.
LANDAU

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NSC

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NNN

Message Attributes

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